GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:601
ANSWERED ON:17.07.2002
NATIONAL ILLNESS ASSISTANCE FUND
T.T.V. DHINAKARAN

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the salient features of National Illness Assistance Fund;

(b) the number of hospitals covered under this scheme, State-wise; and

(c) the criteria for choosing hospitals?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a): National Illness Assistance Funds (NIAF) has been set up with an initial contribution of Rs. 5 Crore from Governemnt of India during 1996-97 to provide one time financial assistance to patients, living below poverty line and suffering from major life threatening diseases, so that they could receive necessary medical treatment.

Governemnt of India also provides financial assistance to State/UT level Illness Assistance Funds through a scheme of grant-in-aid to concerned State/UT Governemnt.Cases requiring financial assistance upto Rs.1.5 lakh in each case are dealt by State/UT level Illness Assistance Funds, and cases requiring financial assistance beyond Rs. 1.5 lakh in each case are dealt by the National Illness Assistance Fund on the recommendation of the State level Illness Assistance Fund/Medical Relief Society.

Individuals, corporate bodies and philanthropic organisations can also contribute to the NIAF and State Funds.

(b)&(c): Beneficiaries receiving treatment at any Governemnt/private/super-speciality hospital may be granted assistance under NIAF. Government hospitals are, however, given preference. As regards State/UT Funds, it is for the respective State/UT Government to decide the hospitals to be included in the State Illness Assistance Fund.